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Results of inoculating rodents with B. pestis.

	Number.	Per cent.
CUTANEOUS INOCULATION.		
Acute plague	20	35.1
Resolving or chronic plague lesions	6	10.5
Negative for plague	25	43.8
Eaten or destroyed	6	10.5
Total rodents inoculated cutaneously	57	....
SUBCUTANEOUS INOCULATION.		
Acute plague	204	54.1
Resolving or chronic plague lesions	31	8.2
Negative for plague	114	30.2
Eaten or destroyed	28	7.4
Total rodents inoculated subcutaneously	377	....
CUTANEOUS AND SUBCUTANEOUS INOCULATION.		
Acute plague	224	51.6
Resolving or chronic plague lesions (13 died, 24 killed)	37	8.6
Negative for plague	139	32.0
No diagnosis (eaten or destroyed)	34	7.8
Total rodents inoculated	434	....

RESULTS OF INOCULATIONS.

Cutaneous inoculations with plague, of 57 rats from a noninfected territory, showed 43.8 per cent to be immune.

Subcutaneous inoculation with plague, of 377 rats from a noninfected locality, showed 30.2 per cent to be immune.

A total of 434 rodents from a noninfected locality showed 32 per cent to be immune.

CONCLUSION.

A very considerable percentage of the wild *M. norvegicus* from a noninfected locality has been found to be immune to plague.

VITAL STATISTICS, ENGLAND AND WALES, 1920.

The following statements are taken from the "Quarterly Return of Marriages, Births, and Deaths Registered in England and Wales" (No. 288), issued by the Registrar General. The figures given are provisional and may differ slightly from revised figures to be presented later.

"According to the quarterly returns furnished by local registrars, 957,994 births and 466,213 deaths were registered in England and Wales in the year 1920. The natural increase of population, by excess of births over deaths, was, therefore, 491,781, the average annual increase in the preceding five years having been 187,625. This statement excludes all war deaths except those registered in this country. The number of persons married during the year was 759,316.

"The numbers of births and of marriages are the highest ever recorded, while the number of deaths is the lowest since 1862, when the population was only about 20,000,000. Natural increase also was the greatest on record.

"The marriage rate in England and Wales during the year 1920 was 20.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population in the middle of the year, the birth rate 25.4 per 1,000, and the death rate 12.4 per 1,000. Infant mortality was 80 per 1,000 registered births. The marriage rate was higher and the total death rate and infant mortality lower than in any other year on record. The birth rate was the highest since 1909."

Vital statistics, England and Wales, 1920.

	Number.	Per 1,000 population.		Number.	Per 1,000 population.
Population (in thousands)	37,610	....	Deaths from—		
Marriages	379,658	....	Measles	7,057	0.19
Births	957,994	25.4	Scarlet fever	1,417	.04
Deaths:			Whooping cough	4,259	.11
Total	466,213	12.4	Diphtheria	5,523	.15
Infants under one year of age	76,736	(1)	Diarrhea and enteritis (under 2 years)	7,975	....
Persons aged 65 years and upward	156,821	....	Influenza	10,508	.28
Deaths from—			Violence	17,915	.48
Typhoid fever	520	.01	Inquest cases	30,995	....
Smallpox	29	.00			

[1] 80.2 per 1,000 births.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH COMPARED.

DEATH RATES FOR PRINCIPAL CAUSES, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1921, SEPTEMBER AND YEAR, 1920, AND COMPARISON BY COLOR FOR FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1919, 1920, AND 1921, IN A GROUP OF INSURED PERSONS.

The accompanying tables are taken from the Statistical Bulletin of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. for October, 1921. They present the mortality data of the industrial department of the company for August and September, 1921, September and year, 1920, and compare the death rates by color for the first nine months of the years 1919, 1920, and 1921.

The figures are based on a strength of approximately 13,000,000 insured persons.

The gross death rate for this group for September, 1921, is lower than that for August, but slightly higher than that for September, 1920. The specific rates for certain diseases, however, show a decided increase over those for August. The rate for typhoid fever was 32 per cent higher in September than in August, and 19 per cent higher than in September, 1920. The diphtheria rate was also higher than in August, 1921, and September, 1920, although lower than that for the year 1920. It was stated that between August 22 and October 8, 1921, 70 deaths from acute poliomyelitis occurred in this group, as against 26 during the corresponding period of 1920.